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You'll make me very happy and proud of each and every one of you it you'll presine se you'll try. Fronts Black Jack and me, will you'l Ah, he, that's mell - thanks a lot, partners. May Ged make you and Kerp you one of his favorites along.

So long for new. See you from the soreen, or from the pages of the most thrue of this magnitude.

IMan Kon

411as 'Recky' Lane

P.S. Stark last and T are passing out signer again. While the proof page of another statedoing all black, help bersend! I think help learned in the act and the forthroning issues of this asgazine, if you'd like to see his

"Rocky"







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SIGN OF THE SECT BUY IN CANVAS SHOES -- IN THE STORE AND ON THE SOLE OF THE SHOE.





























CRASI

RELIABLE RUSTLER

By WALTER FARMER

PAMROD KEENE took another look at the man across the table. There was no mistaking the face, the allt eyes, the deep scar across the forehead, the black hair coming to a widow's peak in the middle. Ramrod knew he had seen that face before.

He had seen it in a WANTED poster. No matter what name he was using now, the man was definitely Killer Candra, wanted for murder and other crimes down Texas way.

Ramod ate his chow and said nothing. He was not a lawman. He was merely a top hand who jobbed around at whatever ranch would give him the best work at the most pay. He did not stick his nose into other people's sifiairs. The code of the west said it wasn't generally too healthy to inquire about another man's past.

man's past.

With deserve within himsel, Renred KeenYet, deserve and was beath to associate
with criminals. As he muched toughtfully
no his food he considered the possibility of
saidding up and moving on. But his curiosity
was disturbing him. He had noticed that quite
a number of the men at the Lazy J seemed
more like outlew than genuin, hardworking
cowhands. He couldn't describe exactly what
in this manner.

"Wonder if Mr. Snavely knows about it?" be thought, as he rose from the table. "I wouldn't like to be the one to tell him. Yet he's treated me all right and I'd hate to see him taken in by a bunch of outlaws."

Mr. Snavely was the owner of the Lazy J. Ramrod had been told to report to him after chuck. He headed for Snavely's living quarters now.

"You've got a reputation as a good man with horses," said Snavely after inviting the tall cowhand to sit. "I'm getting some more, a whole lot more, and I'm thinking of putting you in charge of them." "More horses?" Ramrod raised one eyebrow. "You've got enough horses. But I reckon if you want to buy more that's your business." "Buy? Who mentioned buying them?"

"I don't know but three ways to get a horse," said Ramrod slowly. "You buy it or somebody gives it to you or you . . ."

"You steal it!" Snavely finished. "We might as well get down to brass tacks. I know who you are."
"You do?" The cowman's astonishment was

not feigned.

"Yea," said the ranch owner, "I do. And we're all in a big operation where we can make a lot of money. I need plenty of good horses. You'reejust the boy to rustle 'em for me. You'll get your cut. You'll be pald well. But that's not all."

"No sir," responded Snavely, leaning back with hands clasped behind his neck. "Stick with me and you'll be a duke in my kingdom." "Your kingdom?"

Snavely chuckled. "I realize it's a hardpicture for you small time bandlist to grash-Your idea of a big haul is to grab a pouch of gold dust from the stage. But with my plan, 'Ill rule this whole territory. Soon I'll have the whole West. I'll have plenty of horses, plenty of men to ride 'em, plenty of gurs and ammunition. And believe me, the men we've got are just like yourself. They shoot straight and shoot to kill."

"But I never killed anyone," protested Ramrod.

Snavely laughed again. It was a harsh, bitter laugh. "You're quite a kidder," he said. "You who are wanted in three states for murder. Mr. Montana Kid!"

RAMROD KEENE was astonished and shocked at the sudden realization of what must have happened. A case of mistaken



identity! He'd been hired at the Lazy I because someone mistook him for the Montana

Ramrod realized how it could happen. He knew the Montana Kid, a lead-slinging desperado, by reputation and description, Ramrod and the Kid had the same general dimensions. Both were tall and slender with broad shoulders. Both had fairly regular features. Both had shocks of unruly red hair. And, since the Montana Kid had a reputation for using aliases, it was not unthinkable that he should choose such a name as Ramrod Keene.

"There's no use denying that I am who I am," he said slowly to Snavely. "And I do know about horses and I'm always ready to make an honest dollar."

"Honest dollar!" chuckled Snavely, "You've got a real sense of humor, Mr. Montana Kid." "I'd just as soon you wouldn't call me by

that handle," said Ramrod, stalling for time. "It's safe enough," Snavely assured him. "There's nobody here that'd go running to the law. All these hombres are in the same fix you are. If they don't all hang together, they'll all hang separately, as Benjamin Franklin said."

■P AMROD KEENE was on a spot, and knew it. If it were soon discovered that he was not really the famous outlaw, his life would not be worth a snap. If, on the other hand, he successfully carried on the pretense, he'd surely become involved in crimes that would land a noose around his neck.

He made a decision quickly. He stood up he said, "I'll bring them here. But remember this. I do it alone. I do it my way. And I'm not the Montana Kid!"

Ramrod turned on his heel, walked out swiftly, mounted his horse, and rode away from the ranch, He had been gone only an hour or so when a tail, red-headed man apneared in Snavely's doorway and said. "You're Snavely, aren't you? I'm sorry I'm late. Expected to sign on here most a week ago, but I had to detour to duck a posse. I'm the Mon-

Snavely was worried. He had no doubt that this was the real Montana Kid. The man had a handbill with his own picture on it. Yet Snavely could not really call the other man an imposter. Ramrod had never claimed to be Montana. He had carefully denied it in fact.

A lookout shouted that horses were coming. Snavely and his band of outlaws could see them in the distance. They could see two dozen horses and one rider. There was no mistaking the tall man in the saddle. He was Ramrod Keene. He rode at the head of the procession of equines.

"Whew!" exclaimed Snavely, "He's a rustler after all. And fast. He may not be the Montana Kid, but he's O.K." He watched with a pleased smile as Ramrod and the horses dipped into a shallow ravine and trailed out of sight behind a hillock, heading for the winding road that would bring them to the

When next the horses came in sight they were already in the ranch yard, approaching the corral. One of the outlaws shouted a warning, but it was too late. A gun barked. The horses were now plunging straight toward Snavely and his crew. And on each of them appeared, as if by magic, a U. S. cavalryman, fully armed and ready to fight. They had been clinging to the offsides of the horses, Indian fighter style, as Ramrod led them upon the ranch from a distance. This had made the horses appear to be riderless.

THE battle was over swiftly and without much bloodshed. The outlaws, in the face of cavalry fire, were quick to throw down their guns. The Montana Kid, Killer Candra, Snavely and all the others were quickly cap-

"I promised to bring you some horses, Mr. Snavely," said Ramrod," and I knew the nearest place to get them would be from my old cavalry outfit camped just over the ridge. But my buddies kind of like their mounts and decided to come along with them, just for the ride. I hone this doesn't interfere too much with your plans to be King of the West,"









































































































































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